

SOGA CONNECTION

December 2012 **DONATE NOW**

Make a Difference with a Year-End Gift

Be a fan of empowerment and help change lives with a year-end donation! You can even make the donation in honor of someone as a holiday gift. [Click here to make your life-changing year-end gift.](#) "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give." -Sir Winston Churchill

Do Your Holiday Shopping Online and Support SOGA

www.GoodShop.com has joined forces with 2,500+ of the top Internet retailers and travel sites (e.g., Amazon, Target, Apple, Kohls, Nordstrom, Best Buy, Toys R Us) to provide coupon and free shipping offers, as well as donate part of every purchase to SOGA at no additional cost to you! Simply go to www.GoodShop.com, select Special Olympics Georgia as your charity, click through to your favorite store, and then shop as usual. You can also access this shopping component from the www.GoodSearch.com homepage.



Special Olympics Georgia makes Ashley McCormick feel like every other kid and be **accepted** for the **champion** she is.

Make your year-end donation and help us reach out to one more person with intellectual disabilities.

Make your tax-deductible gift before Dec. 31.

DONATE NOW



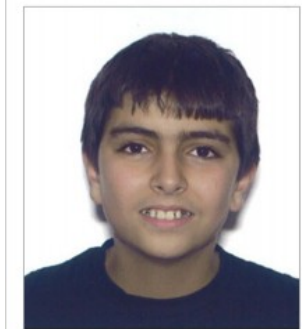

Polar Plunge 2013!

Join Special Olympics Georgia for the 4th Annual Polar Plunge and be ready to be "freezin' for a reason!" February 16 at LanierWorld at Sunset Cove. All it takes is at least \$50 to get started and the more you raise the better incentives you get. Be sure to start planning your costume now and enter our costume contest. [Click here](#) to sign up or register a team follow the link below. For more information contact: Danny Knight 229 292-5143 [Danny.Knight@SpecialOlympicsGA.org](mailto:DKnight@SpecialOlympicsGA.org)



We Did It - Help Us Fulfill Our Dreams!

Hi! We are Special Olympics Georgia athletes Aidan Abowd, Sissy Cooley, and Marnie Hornsby. We have been selected to represent Team USA at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea January 29th – February 5th, 2013. We will be joining 3,300 athletes and coaches from 112 countries for a week of competition and friendship. [Click here to learn more about each of us and how you can help us on our journey to South Korea.](#) SOGA is very proud of the athletes, coaches and officials attending: Athletes Aidan Abowd (DeKalb County Ice Skating) Sissy Cooley (Colquitt County Ice Skating) and Marnie Hornsby (Henry County Alpine Skiing). Coach Tara Torbert (Colquitt County Ice Skating). Floor Hockey Officials of Brunswick: Nicholas Daniels and Tom Bullock.



Aidan

Abowd (above), Sissy Cooley (right) and Marnie Hornsby (below).



Foam Fest 5K March 16

Join us Saturday, March 16 for foam, mud and an obstacle course at Durhamtown Offroad Park 2350 Randolph Church Road Durhamtown, GA 30669. [The 5k Foam Fest](#) is the newest and craziest race to hit the nation! Smiling and running don't usually go hand in hand but the 5K Foam Fest is an amazing mix of foam, mud and obstacles thus making fitness fun. Whether you like it dirty or clean the 5k Foam Fest has something for everyone. Imagine the excitement of a mud run combined with foam, inflatable obstacles, army crawls, foam, colossal walls, mud pits, cargo net climbs, foam, body washer, moon walk, foam, slip'n slides and water obstacles!



Athlete of the Month: Deon Grant

Deon Grant of Colquitt County Special Olympics is truly an inspiration among his peers at Colquitt County High School in Moultrie. He is a 11th grader and just like any 11th grader, Deon enjoys hanging out with his friends. Deon is also involved with Partnerships for Success Club at his school and whenever it is football season Deon takes pleasure in cheering for the CCHS Packer football team. Deon has been involved with Special Olympics for over 10 years now as a multi-sport athlete by participating in softball, equestrian and skiing. At 2012 State Fall Games in Dalton, Deon and his teammates won the gold medal in Traditional Softball. Deon is also an alpine skier and plans to compete in the Southeast Regional Winter Games in 2013. Congratulations Deon!



December Volunteer: Erica Arena

With a kind heart, fast feet and meticulous attention to detail, Erica Arena managed a volunteer slot that actually would keep several people busy at SOGA's fundraiser Strike the R-word in Atlanta this fall. She's a member of the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers, a group SOGA developed a partnership with this year. Bowlers, including 25 athletes, had only a short time to register, check out the silent auction items and fine their lanes. Erica was the catch-all for all the bowlers at registration, for anyone who didn't get a pair of shoes or into their correct bowling lane. Her role was to encourage and secure as many silent auction bids as possible. And she still made sure everyone paid before leaving, keeping detailed notes showing we raised more money than we hoped through the silent auction. Thanks to the volunteers including Erica, the entire event surpassed its fundraising goal and raised more than \$6,500. Congratulations Erica for being volunteer of the month!



Volunteer Opportunity

State Indoor Winter Games

Marietta January 25 - 27

Get out of the cold and volunteer for the INDOOR winter games. Over 1,500 SOGA athletes compete in basketball, bowling, power lifting, floor hockey, gymnastics, roller skating and ice skating. Contact Leslie Anderson at Leslie.Anderson@SpecialOlympicsGA.org.

Sponsor of the Month: Publix Super Markets

Presenting Sponsor of the Law Enforcement Torch Run, [Publix Super Markets](#) has helped to raise over \$13 million since 1995 for Southeastern Special Olympics programs through icon sales. In Georgia alone over \$2 million has been raised through our partnership. Founded in 1930, [Publix Super Markets](#) is the largest and fastest-growing employee-owned supermarket chain in the United States. Publix and their associates excel in community involvement, volunteerism and a commitment to the market areas and beyond. 2012 proved to be another successful year for the Special Olympics partnership, raising over \$2 million throughout all stores. [Publix](#) customers can purchase a torch icon at the registers starting January 3rd through January 23rd, 2013 for \$1, \$3, \$5, or \$10. A supporter of Special Olympics in the Southeastern United States for over 35 years, [Publix](#) is represented at numerous Special Olympics Georgia competitions and events. They continually show their great enthusiasm and support year round and have an industry-leading history of hiring people with intellectual disabilities, many of whom participate in Special Olympics.



Go Over the Edge April 20

Ever wondered if you had what it takes to be fearless and face new challenges head-on? Well, here's your chance! This spring (April 20, 2013) join "edgers" who are brave enough to raise \$1,000 to rappel over the edge of a 20 story building for Special Olympics Georgia. [Click here to register.](#)

Black Tie Gala to benefit Camp Inspire Feb. 9

Purchase your ticket to the Black Tie Gala benefiting athlete Camp Inspire and hosted by Knights of Columbus Feb. 9 at The Vinings Club. Tickets range from \$125 per person to \$5,000 for a group including overnight stays. [Click here for the flyer and more information.](#)

Why don't you like us on Facebook?

Check out the latest updates and news, photos and inspiring videos by getting Special Olympics Georgia updates in your News Feed. [Click here](#) to get to us.

We'll Take Your Old Phone and You'll Get a Tax Deduction

We have a cell phone and printer/toner cartridge recycling project to benefit SOGA. After you collect 10, we will send you a label to mail them back to the recycling company for free.

Contact Jennifer Daniell for more information at 770 414-9390 x 110 or [Jennifer](#).

Daniell@SpecialOlympicsGA.org.



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Thank You to our Friends at La Tagliatella! La Tagliatella will have family and friends training days December 15th, 22nd and 23rd at their new Emory Point restaurant location where proceeds from the events will benefit Special Olympics Georgia athletes. [Click here](#) to go to the La Tagliatella Web site to see further information on restaurant locations.



Forward this Email to a Friend

You know people-- family members, friends, work colleagues, just about everywhere you go there's someone you know. Will you introduce Special Olympics Georgia to them? Forward this e-newsletter and ask them to [click here](#) and then click on the Sign-up for the E-newsletter button. Special Olympics Georgia | 770.414.9390 4000 DeKalb Technology Parkway | Suite 400 Building 400 | Atlanta, GA 30340

For General Info, email: Jennifer.Daniell@SpecialOlympicsGA.org

